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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☀️ Friday	80° 66°
☁️ Saturday	79° 64°
☁️ Sunday	79° 64°
☁️ Monday	79° 64°
☀️ Tuesday	84° 66°
☀️ Wednesday	84° 66°
☀️ Thursday	82° 67°

Chief Stainbrook Reassures Beverly Hills at Rotary Address

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook delivered a well-timed address to the Beverly Hills Rotary Club on Aug. 15. In addition to a highly publicized burglary at Neiman Marcus over the weekend, it is also back to school week in Beverly Hills. Stainbrook spoke of recent technological advances in the department that will aid in the efforts to keep the city safe. (That same evening, a shooting on Canon Drive also made headlines.)

Stainbrook was introduced at the Rotary luncheon by Councilmember Sharona Nazarian, who outlined his impressive list of accomplishments prior to taking the helm at

the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD). Those achievements include a highly decorated three decades in the military and the recent honor as the San Diego County Law Enforcement “Official of the Year.”

After accepting his Rotary Club flag from President JR Dzubak, Stainbrook spoke with humor, humility, and honesty, with his background as a family man shining through.

He acknowledged the day as the start of the school year, emphasizing the need for a good working relationship between the BHPD and the schools. He noted the addition of another resource officer to the schools and expressed hope for more in the future.

Of course, the news of the weekend’s

Neiman Marcus break-in was top of mind for many.

Stainbrook was at the ready, posing the question, “What was in the news this weekend? What’s got your attention?”

After eliciting the audience’s response, he offered up his thoughts.

“Listen, this stuff is going to happen. And we’re not happy about it.

The officers are doing the right thing. They are going out and arresting the criminals. The bad news is, they get out of jail, within a day or two. We can’t keep arresting the same people over and over again and not get any help from the DA, the court system,

See Stainbrook, page 12

Mayor Lili Bosse led a crowd of exuberant residents at the “Music & Dance!” event on Aug. 18. The second installation of the Bosse’s Mental Wellness Series took place on the Crescent side of City Hall. Read the complete story on BeverlyHillsCourier.com



Photo by Omar Reyes Benitez

BHUSD to Adopt Community Pledge for Inclusivity, Tolerance

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

For the first time, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) will adopt a Community Pledge that acknowledges a commitment to inclusivity, civility, honoring the learning environment and tolerance. The pledge will be launched and formally adopted at the Aug. 23 BHUSD Board of Education meeting, where administration, teachers, staff, students and parents and community members are invited to attend and sign it. The campaign around the pledge will continue throughout the year.

“We have Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs at each of the schools that reinforce the positive behaviors that we expect of our kids, but we have never set those expectations for the entire school community including

the Board, parents, and our staff,” Board President Mary Wells told the Courier. “And so, to kick off the year, we are launching The Community Pledge to set the tone and standards for our behavior. As a community we want to create the environment that supports our students and each other. We want everyone to be treated respectfully and we will hold each other accountable. The Community Pledge acknowledges our commitment to do just that.”

As a community we want to support the expectations we have for our students and each other. We want to be treated with respect and hold each other accountable to that, especially when we have an election coming up.

The pledge was introduced to BHUSD staff on Aug. 12 and will be brought back on

See Pledge, page 14

Planning Commission Approves Cartier Delay, Spars with Developer

BY MATTHEW BLAKE

If a tree falls in Beverly Hills, it not only makes a sound. It potentially dooms a hillside mansion six years in the making.

Last Thursday, the five-member Planning Commission again deferred approval of a 21,400-square-foot home at 1510 Lexington Road that is affiliated with Los Angeles real estate investor David Taban, according to state of California records.

The project is set to reappear on the agenda of a Oct. 13 meeting. Then, Commission members will, again, discuss how and when five trees were lost on the property and the excavation process to create a basement that Commission Chair Myra Demeter deemed, “violence on the land.”

See Planning Commission, page 20

Courier Calendar

NOW - SEPT. 4

GRIFFITH PARK FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: "MACBETH" 7 P.M.

Independent Shakespeare Co. presents the next production in its Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival, "Macbeth." Due to the current construction of the permanent Griffith Park Stage, Shakespeare's most seductive tragedy is performed under unique circumstances at the Dell on top of the Old Zoo at Griffith Park. Given these conditions, the theatre company has decided to strip away any semblance of a set and instead perform the play in the environment of the park, using wrap-around sound design to produce a unique experience. Special evenings of the show include a preshow salon on Aug. 20, and a "Celebrate the Summer Pre-Show Faire" on Aug. 27 that features strolling players and family activities. Audience members are also encouraged to donate unopened hygiene products for donation to unhoused people, as part of a partnership with SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition. Attendance is free, but advanced registration is required due to limited space. The production may be too intense for young viewers. iscla.org

NOW - OCT. 9

LACMA: "LEE ALEXANDER MCQUEEN: MIND, MYTHOS, MUSE" MON.-TUES., THURS. 11 A.M.-6 P.M. FRI. 11 A.M.-8 P.M. SAT.-SUN. 10 A.M.-7 P.M.

LACMA presents an exhibition of one of the most significant contributors to fashion from 1990-2010, Lee Alexander McQueen, with "Mind, Mythos, Muse." McQueen was a conceptual and

technical talent, and showed his skill in tailoring and dressmaking, integrating encyclopedic and autobiographical references that spanned time, geography, media, and technology. In this first exhibition of the designer on the West Coast, McQueen's work is contextualized among a canon of artmakers who drew upon analogous themes and visual references. The show hopes to present and explore cycles of influence and artistic legacy. Tickets are free for L.A. County residents under 17 every day, and to all after 3 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Otherwise, tickets are \$20 for adults and \$16 for seniors and students. Advanced reservations are required. Masks must be worn indoors. lacma.org

AUG. 21

CICLAVIA: "MEET THE HOLLYWOODS" 9 A.M.-4 P.M.

CicLAvia, in collaboration with the cities of Los Angeles and West Hollywood, presents "Meet the Hollywoods," which includes 6.6 miles of open streets for people-powered vehicles. The route connects East and West Hollywood, including Santa Monica Boulevard, Highland Avenue, Hollywood Boulevard, between San Vicente Boulevard to the west and N. Virgil Avenue to the east. Participants can show up anywhere along the route to sightsee, play, and explore local gems. CicLAvia seeks to build lasting social and cultural connections by reimagining cities with open, car-free streets. No electric scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, electric unicycles, motorcycles or other non-people-powered vehicles are allowed. Class 1 e-bikes with pedal assist are allowed. Class 2 e-bikes are allowed when throttle is

powered off. Class 3 e-bikes are allowed when pedal assist is turned off. Motorized wheelchairs are allowed. CicLAvia is free for everyone. ciclavia.org

AUG. 23

THE FORD: MELISSA ETHERIDGE: "ONE WAY OUT" TOUR 6:30 GATES OPEN 8 P.M. SHOW

Singer-songwriter Melissa Etheridge's latest album "One Way Out" was released in 2021. In her "One Way Out" Tour, the two-time Grammy winner and Oscar winner sings her collection of hits and deep cuts in addition to songs from this latest album. theford.com

AUG. 25

MOCA GRAND: "APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABILITY: A CONVERSATION WITH ARTISTS ENGAGING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES" 6:30 P.M.

The MOCA Grand hosts a panel discussion featuring artists engaged with environmental issues. Featured issues include environmental and social justice, community activism, climate-related content, as these notions apply to the concept of "sustainability." Artists on the panel include Andrea Bowers, Patty Chang, Madeline Hollander, Jonah Jacobs, and Annabel Keenan. Admission to this panel is free, RSVP online. MOCA Grand is located at 250 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles and requires all guests to present proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test. Vaccinated individuals are recommended to wear masks indoors, unvaccinated individuals must wear masks. moca.org

AUG. 25

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER: SUNSET CONCERTS: SON ROMPE PERA 6:30 P.M. DOORS AND GALLERIES 8 P.M. SHOW

As part of their Sunset Concerts series, the Skirball Cultural Center presents a concert from Son Rompe Pera. Founding members Kacho, Kilos, and Mongo Gama add grunge and rock sensibilities to the marimba that they played with thier father while growing up in Mexico City. Tickets are free, but walk-ups are first-come, first-serve. Masks must be worn while indoors. skirball.org

AUG. 26 - 27

HOLLYWOOD BOWL: DIANA ROSS

Diana Ross will return to the Hollywood Bowl for two nights. She has recently released her new album "Thank You." One of the greatest entertainers of all time will perform her hit songs, including "I'm Coming Out," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Stop in the Name of Love," and many more. The performance is supported by Tylie Jones. hollywoodbowl.com

AUG. 26 - SEPT. 5

EL CAPITAN THEATRE: "ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY" 10 A.M., 1:30 P.M., 5 P.M., 8:30 P.M.

The El Capitan Theatre presents screenings of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," with a special look at the Disney+ series "Andor." The Disney+ series will follow the character of Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) prior to the events of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." Tickets are \$12 for all ages and include a "Rogue One" mini poster while supplies last. Unvaccinated guests must wear masks indoors. elcapitantheatre.com

AUG. 27

THE BROAD: "NOW WE'RE HERE" 8 - 11 P.M.

As part of artists reflecting on The Broad's special exhibition, "This Is Not America's Flag," this iteration of "Now We're Here" includes a performance by three-time Grammy winner Fantastic Negrito. Also scheduled are music producer HPRIZM, spoken word from Kelly Caballero, rap and hip hop from Jessa Calderon, experimental electronic music from Lu Coy, recorded voices describing, singing, and remembering pasts and histories that call forth the specificity of place by Renée Petropoulos, Yvonne Rainer's Trio A with Flags dance piece performed by Mike Tyus and Luca Renzi, and a vocal and electronic exploration of art as a mode for healing from Davia Spain. "This Is Not America's Flag" questions and explores the symbolism of the American flag. Artists celebrate their own identities and roles in the sociopolitical and artistic landscape and define what citizenship and national identity means to them. Tickets to the event are \$25. thebroad.org



Photo by Laura Rudich/CicLAvia

A canine participant in CicLAvia "Meet the Hollywoods" in 2019, showcasing activities beyond human-powered vehicles

Anyone could manage our family Trust but he earned our family's trust.



Scout always made Pop Pop smile and smiles were hard to come by at the end. We wanted him to be happy but the hospital said, "Absolutely no dogs allowed." I don't know what Tim said or did, but he arranged for us to bring Scout in before Pop Pop passed. I've never seen him happier and more at peace than when he was sitting with his beloved dog. Tim could make us millions of dollars managing our portfolio, and he has, but he'll never give us anything more valuable than that moment because true worth is in **the little things**.

— David, Santa Barbara



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BHPD Conducts Safety Drill at Hawthorne Elementary School



Photo by Bianca Heyward

Officers and volunteers at the Hawthorne School safety drill.

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

In an increasing partnership between the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) and the city, first responders conducted emergency safety drills at Hawthorne Elementary School on Aug. 12. The Courier was on the scene as officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) and the Beverly Hills

Fire Department (BHFD) practiced advanced tactical drills, provided on-scene medical treatment for victims, and simulated discharge of weapons in active shooter scenarios. The training exercise provides a review of on-campus protocols, and police and fire department response during a major emergency. In addition, 10 students who are in the
See Safety Drill, page 15

New Brand Experience Center Debuts in Beverly Hills



Photo by Emily Holshouser

Guests enjoying the vehicle simulator at the INDI EV Brand Experience Center.

BY EMILY HOLSHOUSER

Beverly Hills community members including Mayor Lili Bosse, local influencers, and members of the City Council came out on Aug. 17 to celebrate the opening of the flagship Brand Experience Center for INDI EV, an electric vehicle company that was founded in 2017. Part showroom, part influencer-friendly

film studio, part event space, the storefront hopes to beckon customers to a new type of car-buying experience.

The showroom is one of many Brand Experience locations that INDI EV hopes to open nationwide. Visitors can chat with sales representatives or peek inside one of the company's vehicles, which come equipped
See INDI EV, page 15

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Burglars Crash Into Neiman Marcus in Beverly Hills



Photo by Lisa Friedman Bloch

Workmen repair damage to Neiman Marcus after the Aug. 13 burglary.

BY ALEJANDRO AVILA

At 4:47 a.m. on Aug. 13, a black Chevrolet sedan was crashed into the Neiman Marcus storefront at 9700 Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills. An unknown number of suspects in the vehicle proceeded to steal merchandise from the luxury store. The suspects then swiftly fled the scene in the three minutes

it took for local authorities to respond to the emergency calls reporting the incident.

No arrests have been made, and the suspects remain on the loose without identification.

The department store was able to open for the day, and photographs of the storefront Saturday afternoon showed the

See Neiman Marcus, page 17

Multiple Shots Fired on North Canon Drive



Photo by Omar Reyes Benítez

Nusr-Et on Canon Drive

BY OMAR REYES BENÍTEZ

Beverly Hills Police Department responded to a shooting on the 100 block of North Canon Drive near Wilshire Boulevard, at approximately 10:50 p.m. on Aug. 16.

The male victim is reported to have been outside of Nusr-Et Steakhouse when the shooting began, although it is unclear which

establishment, if any, he was patronizing. He was then struck by at least one bullet after multiple gunshots were fired from across the street, police told local stations. The victim was then taken to a local hospital after sustaining injuries to his lower back and is reported to be in stable condition. Bullets also shattered glass at the nearby Bank of the West.

See Shots Fired, page 17

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Business with Bosse at Euro Caffé

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

The charming European-style courtyard in front of Euro Caffé on Canon Drive was buzzing with wonderful coffee and new connections as over 130 members of the business and residential communities came out Aug. 16 for another well attended “Business with Bosse.” Mayor Bosse set the energetic, welcoming tone as the owners of Euro Caffé and the new Euro Gastronomia Italian market, just a few shops down, showcased their delicacies for all to enjoy. Owners Vartan and Mayda Kemanjian are excited to share that Euro Gastonomia, newly open one month, will be offering specialized custom gift baskets.



Right: Mayor Lili Bosse at the Euro Caffé event Aug. 16

Far right: Former Mayor Linda Briskman, with owners Vartan and Mayda Kemanjian



Photos by Lisa Friedman Bloch

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Thursday, August 25th

From 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. at City Hall

This is an opportunity for Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse to listen to **YOUR** ideas and what you have on your mind!

IN-PERSON:	VIRTUAL:	WHEN:
City Hall Municipal Gallery	To participate: beverlyhills.org/LiveWithLili	No RSVP necessary;
455 N Rexford Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90210	To watch: beverlyhills.org/live	for more information, visit beverlyhills.org/LiveWithLili

JNF-USA Holds Beverly Hills Event



(From left) Beverly Hills resident and member of JNF-USA's Greater Los Angeles Board of Directors, Carole Shnier; JNF-USA Greater Los Angeles Co-Presidents Susie and Fred Toczek; Grandmaster Ladan; former Mayor of Beverly Hills, Barry Brucker and Lt. Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia attend event at Ladan's Wellness Sanctuary in Beverly Hills to learn how their charitable giving empowers young Israelis with disabilities.

The Courier in Santorini



Beverly Hills residents Robert Eitches, M.D. and his wife Ilona celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary recently in Santorini, Greece and took a copy of the Courier to enjoy in the Mediterranean sunshine.



Dominique Fung
Will you keep singing?, 2021
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Collection of East West Bank.
Image courtesy of the Artist, Jeffery Deitch and Nicodim.

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DJ Keybo is Making Beverly Hills Dance

BY OMAR REYES BENÍTEZ

DJ Keybo has performed at a variety of parties, weddings and other events, but he always makes time to add a little bounce to the City of Beverly Hills. He's been recruited by Mayor Lili Bosse for several events, the most recent being the Mayor's Mental Wellness Series: Music and Dance! on Aug. 18.

Originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, Keybo, whose real name is Keith Welborn, learned his way around the turntables from his father, who was also a DJ. He would often work events with his father and that became the foundation for a lifetime of spreading music.

Keybo is a self-proclaimed "Entertainment Therapist" and a firm believer that music has the power to heal the soul. "I feel like we all have this rhythm in us," said Keybo. "If you vibe with that rhythm, that's how good relationships are built, that's how good connections are built, even good mixing is made that way. Music is the way we can all clearly align."

He says that his job is to not only understand the music in his library, but



Photo by Omar Reyes Benítez

DJ Keybo performing at the Music and Dance! event Aug. 18.

also the people on the dance floor. Keybo is constantly trying to identify the crowd's emotional thumbprint to bring them a tune that will truly resonate with them. "My responsibility at any event, wedding, corporate event or a movie premiere, whatever it may be, is to sense what that energy is," said Keybo. "I trust myself that I will know what music they want to listen to based on

that connection."

By now, Keybo has gotten a good sense of what that thumbprint is for Beverly Hills, and he says it's derived from the aspirations the people carry with them every day. "From what I've seen, there are a lot of people who want to see better days, in the way that tells me they're very involved in the city, and they want to see the city get better," said Keybo.

"To me that sounds like they want something empowering or classics that remind them of times that weren't as good and now they're better because Gloria Gaynor said, 'I Will Survive.'"

However, the job of a DJ is more than simply playing the hits and classics. Keybo believes that he should also push the music
See DJ Keybo, page 17

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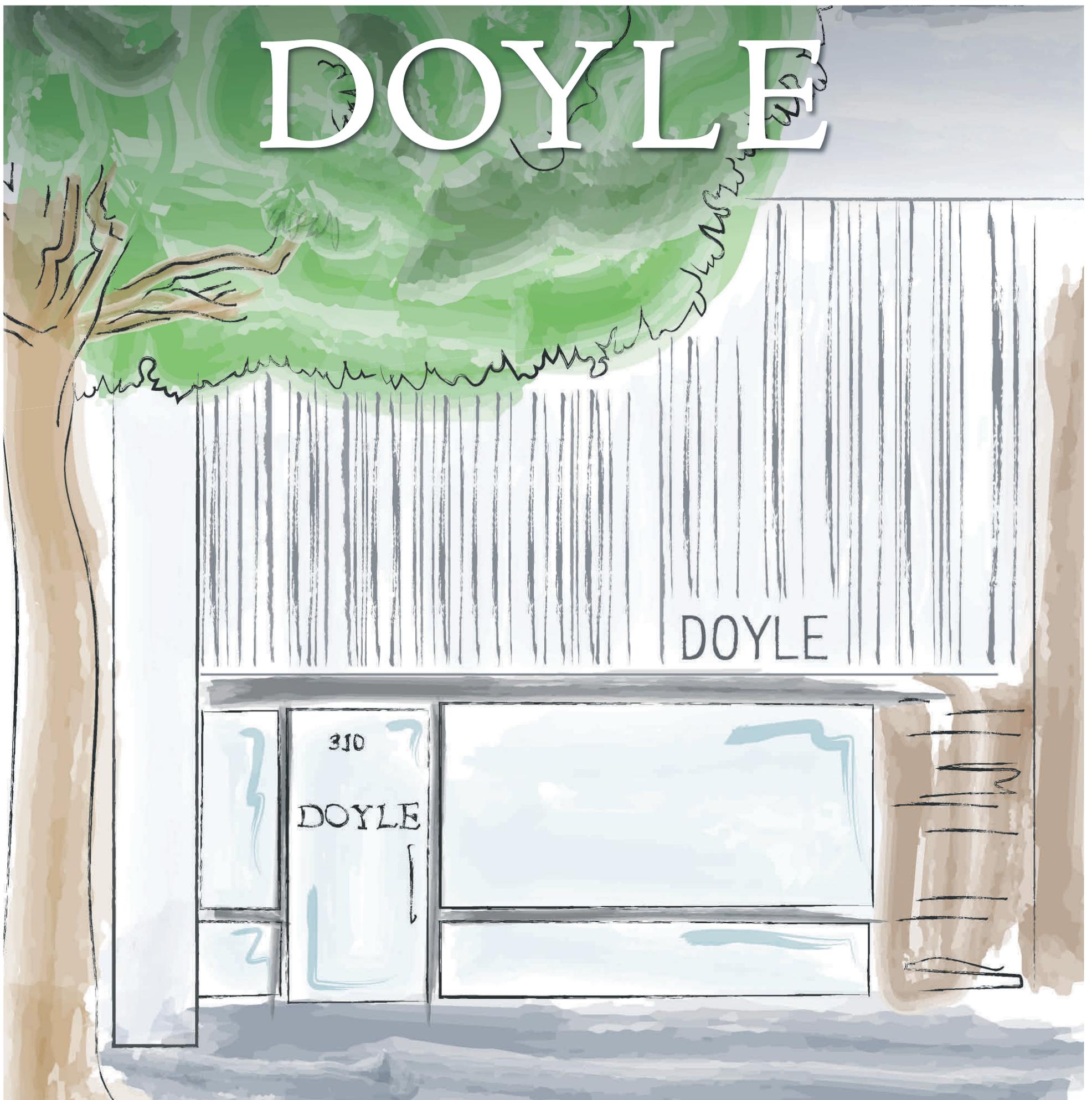
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Monday, **September 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS TO AMEND BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS RELATED TO THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE HEIGHTS FOR WALLS, FENCES, AND HEDGES IN CERTAIN SINGLE FAMILY AND ALL MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF THE CITY

Per the direction of the City Council a draft ordinance will be presented for first reading. The Planning Commission previously reviewed the draft ordinance at its July 28, 2022 meeting, and adopted a resolution recommending approval of the ordinance to the City Council. This ordinance is intended to modify the regulations in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) related to wall, fence, and hedge heights in certain residential zones to increase the maximum allowable height in rear yards, and in side yards that are adjacent to an alley. The Ordinance proposes to amend the following sections of the BHMC:

- Standards for walls, fences, and hedges in the Central Area of the City:
 - o Increase the maximum allowable height of a wall, fence, or hedge located in a rear yard (BHMC §10-3-2420.E)
 - o Increase the maximum allowable height for that portion of a wall, fence, or hedge located in a side yard, but not in a front yard, and located within five feet (5') of a rear lot line (BHMC §10-3-2420.D)
 - o Increase the maximum allowable height of a wall, fence, or hedge located in a side yard that is adjacent to an alley
- Standards for walls, fences, and hedges in multiple-family residential areas of the City:
 - o Increase the maximum allowable height of a wall, fence, or hedge located in a rear yard (BHMC §10-3-2814.E)
 - o Increase the maximum allowable height for that portion of a wall, fence, or hedge located in a side yard, but not in a front yard, and located within five feet (5') of a rear lot line (BHMC §10-3-2814.D)
 - o Increase the maximum allowable height of a wall, fence, or hedge located in a side yard that is adjacent to an alley.
- The proposed ordinance would not modify standards for the Hillside Area or the Trousdale Estates Area of the City.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project is not related to any specific development proposal and does not enable any physical changes in the environment, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, and does not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that a change to the regulations related to walls, fences, and hedges would have a significant effect on the environment.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically; and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable.

To submit Audio/Oral comments during the hearing call: 310-288-2288, to submit written comments please email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org, to submit video comments (during public comment only) use <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/j/90210> (passcode: 90210). To Watch Video Live use <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or On-Demand use <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>. In-Person comments can be submitted with a speaker card to the City Clerk at the meeting.

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. Written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be 3 minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Reina Kapadia, AICP, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1129**, or by email at rkapadia@beverlyhills.org.

HUMA AHMED
City Clerk

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



DATE: Thursday, September 8, 2022
TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Meeting will be held in person at:
Commission Meeting Room 280A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference; details provided below



PROJECT ADDRESS: 319-323 North Rodeo Drive (Dior)
(nearest cross street: Dayton Way)

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on **Thursday, September 8, 2022**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

A request to construct a new three-story commercial building with a restaurant, rooftop uses, an alternative parking facility, and in lieu parking for the properties located at **319-323 North Rodeo Drive (Dior)**. The following entitlements have been requested in association with the project:

Development Plan Review. Pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) §§10-3-3100 and 10-3-3107.A.3, a Development Plan Review is required to allow the construction of a new three-story commercial building with rooftop uses. The proposed building would contain approximately 29,701 square feet (SF) of floor area and would be 60' in height to the highest element of the rooftop structure.

Conditional Use Permit. Pursuant to BHMC §10-3-2720.4(A), a Conditional Use Permit is required to allow an alternative parking facility to meet the parking requirements set forth in the BHMC. An alternative parking facility is defined as "an off street parking facility in which vehicular storage is accomplished with mechanical parking lifts and/or automobile elevators that are operated by a valet or other driver". The proposed project includes one subterranean parking level and utilizes mechanical parking lifts to allow two automobiles to occupy a single parking space.

In-Lieu Parking. Pursuant to BHMC §10-3-3301, -3302, and -3303, the project is located within an in-lieu parking district, meets the bulk and size limits, is a qualifying use and, therefore, is eligible for participation in the program. The proposed project includes a request for 23 parking spaces to be provided through participation in the city's in-lieu parking program as the parking spaces cannot be accommodated on the project site.

Open Air Dining Permit. Pursuant to BHMC §10-3-3501, an Open Air Dining Permit is required to establish open air dining on private property. The proposed project includes a restaurant on the third floor with approximately 1,444 SF of open air dining.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. Upon review, the project appears to qualify for a Class 32 Categorical Exemption (In-Fill Development Projects) in accordance with the requirements of Section 15332 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project exempt from the environmental review requirements of CEQA.

How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch, or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- **In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- **Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- **Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- **Written Comment:** Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org
- **Audio Only:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- **Watch LIVE:** BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email.

In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record.

Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, August 30 2022 will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, August 30, 2022, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Judy Gutierrez, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1192, or by email at jgutierrez@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Sincerely,
Judy Gutierrez, Associate Planner

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on **Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS TO AMEND BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS RELATED TO MEDICAL USE REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ZONES IN THE CITY

Per the direction of the City Council, a draft ordinance to amend the City's medical use regulations will be presented for first reading. This ordinance is intended to replace the Medical Urgency Ordinance (Urgency Ordinance No. 20-O-2826), which will expire in November 2022. The Planning Commission previously reviewed the draft ordinance at their July 28, 2022 meeting, and adopted a resolution to recommend approval of this ordinance to the City Council. The following is a summary of the regulations that are included in the draft ordinance:

- Allow the conversion of existing commercial space to medical space, and allow medical spaces in newly constructed buildings upon meeting required criteria;
- The conversion of commercial floor area to medical floor area would be permitted ministerially (via a building permit) in the C-3, C-3T-1, C-3T-2, C-3T-3, C-R-PD, C-R, C-3A, C-3B, or E-O-PD zones;
- Require one parking space per 350 square feet of floor area for medical uses (as allowed under the urgency ordinance);
- Prohibit ground floor medical uses located on the ground floor of a building; and
- Prohibit "specialty clinics" in which the primary function is to perform surgeries, but allow a maximum of one operating room for surgical uses that is no more than 10% of the floor area of the entire medical suite in which it is located.

In addition, the ordinance includes language to clean up the medical use code sections and ensure consistency with other sections of the zoning code. Per the request of the City Council, the ordinance also adds a requirement for these regulations to be reviewed by the Council in approximately five years from its adoption date.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project is not related to any specific development proposal and do not enable any physical changes in the environment, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that a change to the regulations related to medical uses would have a significant effect on the environment.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically; and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable.

To submit Audio/Oral comments during the hearing call: 310-288-2288, to submit written comments please email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org, to submit video comments (during public comment only) use <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic> (pass-code: 90210). To Watch Video Live use <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or On-Demand use <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>. In-Person comments can be submitted with a speaker card to the City Clerk at the meeting.

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. Written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be 3 minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion. Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Chloe Chen, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1194, or by email at cchen@beverlyhills.org. Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this ordinance, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED
City Clerk

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

Stainbrook, from page 1

and the state."

The positive news is that he believes there is a good chance for arrests because of the outstanding technology around the city. He is using DNA evidence left at the scene to "catch the bad guys."

Stainbrook hit hard on his main message. "The Beverly Hills Police Department will never stop investigating or going after these criminals until we get an arrest...It doesn't matter where they are in the world, the BHPD will travel to make arrests for the crimes committed in Beverly Hills."

He added that Beverly Hills has the lowest crime rate in comparison to the cities surrounding it, "although we are not an Island." His message to criminals is, "don't come here because we will arrest you."

Stainbrook expressed appreciation to the City Council, for their strong support of the ultimately unsuccessful attempt to recall Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón. He also took time to explain the advances in crime-fighting technology at the disposal of the department.

Real Time Watch Center

In operation around the clock, seven days a week, 2,000 cameras are monitored by two independent security companies who coordinate with security guards and officers in the field.

"It looks like something out of 'Star Trek' or 'Star Wars,'" said Stainbrook.

The Real Time Watch Center technology will enable security forces to get the information out to the officers faster, as well as to use the information to help in arrests. The new technology also allows judges to actually see the crime, which will provide a boost within the judicial system. Stainbrook cited a recent example of a judge remanding an assailant into custody thanks to the city's video technology.

BHPD Drone

Another important tool Stainbrook touted is the law enforcement drone, which is capable of operating 10 hours per day, seven days a week. Now only does the drone cover the center of the city, in a few months Stainbrook believes its reach will expand to approximately 85 percent of Beverly Hills. In essence, the drone acts like the city's helicopter, "equivalent to 10 officers when it's up," said Stainbrook.

Automated License Plate Readers

The BHPD is also effectively utilizing Automated License Plate Reader technology. Stainbrook acknowledged news reports that criminal gangs are targeting Beverly Hills. They steal cars, switch plates with other cars, or cover the plates "as they did in the Neiman Marcus case," and come into the city with an intent to rob or burglarize. The hope is that the BHPD can stop the criminals before they commit the crime, as the license plate readers provide a "heads up." The readers are deployed throughout the city, including on Rodeo Drive, and Stainbrook hopes to have them at schools, businesses and hotels in the future.

"What makes the news is Neiman Marcus, but what doesn't make the news is the crime that never happened," said Stainbrook, who listed several examples to illustrate his point.



Photo courtesy of Gidas Peteris
Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook

At one point he made a joke about armed assailants who "weren't here to take a picture by the fountain." When everyone laughed, he deadpanned, "I'm kind of funny. You've got to catch it though, between all the other stuff."

Stainbrook also noted that other agencies, such as Anaheim, LAPD and Pasadena, have recently come into Beverly Hills to observe the city's methodologies.

"These cities know if a suspect came through Beverly Hills, we have them on camera," he said.

Although traditionally summer is a time when crime tends to spike, that hasn't been the case in Beverly Hills. He does see laws passed in the last 10 years as a main factor in the rise in crime overall.

Stainbrook said he's a big believer in rehabilitation verses incarceration.

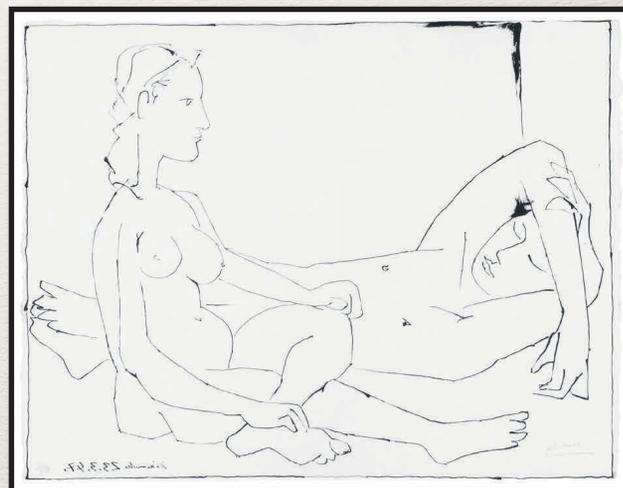
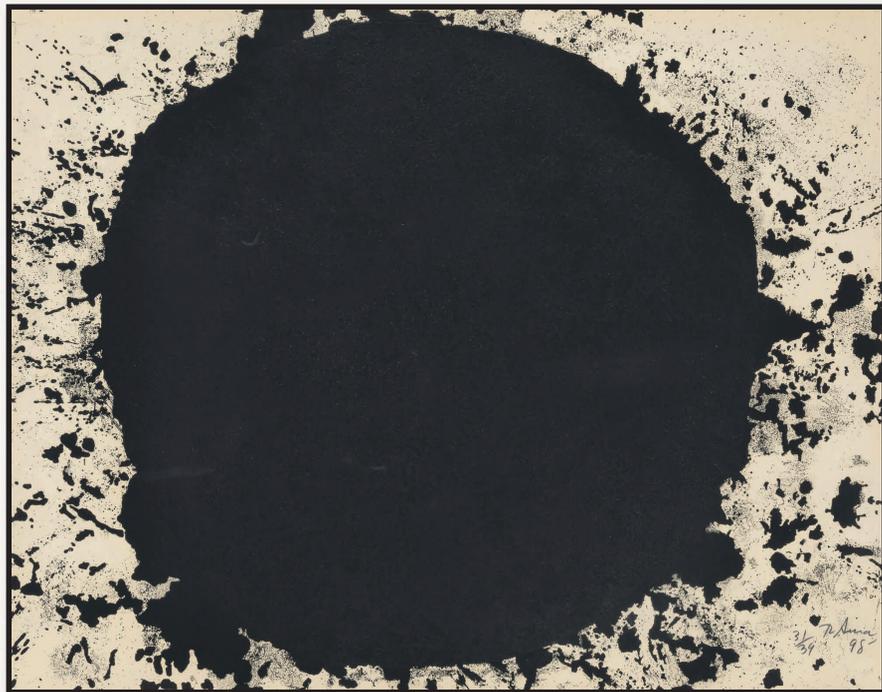
"However, you have to have a support system behind these laws, to change the criminal system in California. We need to come back to some central position on criminal justice."

Another issue Stainbrook touched upon was recruitment for the department. He said that recruiting standards have not changed but the applicant pool has shrunk considerably. There is also a big turnover from retirements.

This is where the private security firms come in, he said. They are similarly well trained; some by experienced former LAPD officers that Stainbrook has worked with. He explained that private security forces monitor prime hot spots in the city. They use police officers in areas "only officers can handle." It takes two years to hire and train and field an officer... and not all of them make it through the program," said Stainbrook. In contrast, private security can be retained and moved from place to place on an expedited basis. He appreciates the support of the City Council in making Beverly Hills a leader in community safety.

Aided by the technology that is essential for effective policing, Stainbrook concluded that compared to other departments, "We're doing pretty good." ●

DOYLE



Clockwise from above
Richard Serra, *Sonny Rollins*,
 Etching, 1998. \$10,000-15,000.
David Hockney, *Celia with
 Green Hat*, Color lithograph,
 1984. \$30,000-50,000.
Pablo Picasso, *Couple*,
 Lithograph, 1947. \$10,000-
 15,000. **Roy Lichtenstein**,
Picture and Pitcher, Color
 Woodcut, 1981. \$10,000-
 15,000. **George Jones & Sons**,
Majolica Cheese Keeper,
 Circa 1878. \$4,000-6,000



Upcoming Exhibitions

FINE JEWELRY
 September 7-8

DAVID HOCKNEY / PRINTS & MULTIPLES
 September 7-23

ENGLISH, CONTINENTAL & AMERICAN SILVER
 September 12-30

**SELECTIONS FROM
 THE JOAN STACKE GRAHAM MAJOLICA COLLECTION**
 September 12-30

IMPORTANT JEWELRY
 October 6-8

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Former Employee Sues Glazer Foundation

A former executive assistant for the Diane & Guilford Glazer Foundation is suing her ex-employer, alleging she was wrongfully fired in 2021 for taking medical leave to deal with depression associated with a month-long bout with the coronavirus. Veronica Mendez's Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit also names Guilford Glazer Properties Inc. as a defendant. The suit states that both the foundation and the company, each based in Beverly Hills, employed her "directly and indirectly." The suit also alleges disability, race and religious discrimination –

Mendez is a Latina of the Mormon faith – as well as failure to accommodate and engage in the interactive process. Mendez

seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

A Diane & Guilford Glazer Foundation representative did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the suit brought Aug. 17.

The foundation focuses on the "prosperity and safety of Israel and the vitality and enrichment of Jewish communities in Israel, Los Angeles, and throughout the world," the group's website states. The foundation is also engaged in funding medical research and advancements in Israel and the United States as well as humanitarian relief efforts globally, according to the website.

City News Service •

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

The Courier wants to hear from you!

Email: editorial@bhcourier.com



The City of Beverly Hills invites you to attend an upcoming community meeting to help us identify transit destinations within the City and provide input on desired transit options to better support mobility for residents, employees, students and visitors to Beverly Hills.

All information, suggestions and ideas generated from both community discussions will help the City identify opportunities for improvements to the current public transportation system, including potential new local services to better meet future community mobility needs.

You may choose to participate in one or both meetings offered on the following dates:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022, 5:30 PM to 7 PM
(Virtual/Online)

Online link will be available at: www.beverlyhills.org/TransitStudy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022, 6 PM to 8 PM

(In-Person in the Municipal Gallery and Virtual/Online)

City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Online link will be available at: www.beverlyhills.org/TransitStudy

*Both meetings will be recorded for on-demand viewing

Visit www.BeverlyHills.org/TransitStudy for more information.
For questions, contact: AskPW@beverlyhills.org or (310) 285-2467

Pledge, from page 1

THE BHUSD COMMUNITY PLEDGE

"The BHUSD community acknowledges that in order to achieve educational excellence, we must act with integrity and respect for each other and our learning environment.

Therefore, I pledge to:

- Model civil behavior and respect in all communications and in public while maintaining a culture of honesty;
- Listen and acknowledge differences of opinion;
- Do my part to protect an inclusive culture in which we honor the relationship between all school community members; and
- Honor our learning environment including how we take care of our schools and personal property.

By holding ourselves and each other accountable to this pledge at all times, we will promote an environment of educational excellence that will allow our entire BHUSD community to thrive."



Photo courtesy BHUSD

BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy greets students on the first day of school.

Aug. 24 for parents and students to sign on back-to-school night.

"We're going to invite everybody to sign it," Wells told the Courier. "The cabinet, all the PTA presidents and their executive board, the site council, the principals, the Associated Student Body—we're going to try and get as many leaders as we can to come to our board meeting to sign it at that meeting, as well as ourselves."

School board members are currently conceptualizing the ways in which the pledge will be used, including being placed at all campuses and in school communications. The pledge is expected to be integrated in a variety of ways, including at the beginning of each board meeting, before class starts, before sports games and more.

Over the summer, the board and cabinet held planning sessions to prepare for the new school year—something past boards have never done, according to President Wells.

The pledge initiative stemmed from President Wells' goal to improve the functionality of the board. Moving forward, the admin planning meetings will take place annually before classes begin. During the planning sessions, the cabinet also "fine-tuned" the BHUSD Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Values and Governance Handbook, which will be approved by the board at the Aug. 23 meeting.

Wells has called on fellow board members to invite their respective liaison committees and city commissioners to sign their names and take the pledge at the upcoming board meeting.

"The energy at the schools is very high," Wells said. "Everyone has a positive attitude and is excited about the changes that have been made to set us up for success in the coming year, and you can really feel it."

The next board meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Aug. 23 at the Jon Cherney Lecture Hall at Beverly Hills High School. •

Safety Drill, from page 4

BHPD Explorers program, which is designed to give youths hands-on experience with the department, participated as civilian role players. The training involved four active shooter scenarios, with a suspect in each.

"I can't thank you enough for this because it's a good test of God forbid, if it happens, a test of our capabilities, fire department, and also civilians," BHPD's Lieutenant Robert Maycott told participants.

BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook stressed the importance of the drill, highlighted the coordination involved, and acknowledged the classroom and individual training that took place leading up to this exercise, adding "every year we should be doing this before the school year starts."

"We're going to do everything to be as safe as possible," Stainbrook added. "Everybody's a safety officer. So, real world scenario, it's not sanitized in there and there's stuff on the floor."

To ensure everyone's wellbeing, those labeled "observers" wore neon yellow safety vests indicating they were not to be shot at. In the exercise, police officers used Simunition rounds, training ammunition made of bright pink or blue wax bullets.

"They are marking cartridges; they're fired out of real weapons with different barrels," Lieutenant Maycott said. "There's no way to put a real round in those." In the designated training area, no other weapons, including handguns, knives, or sharp objects, were permitted inside the scenario.

Maycott advised everyone to keep their "head on a swivel" and reviewed verbal commands such as the "range is hot," meaning the scenario is live and they may handle firearms, and "index" meaning the exercise is over and everyone must stop. Emergency personnel were instructed to work diligently, talk on the radio like they normally would and communicate back to dispatch. A combination of emergency personnel and officers comprised a Rescue Task Force, led by firefighters who are the first to go inside, extricate any victims and assess the triage.

The drills were held inside, with two other contact teams on deck at any time, and officers downloading information at the SWAT car and getting a visual look down-range. Inside, a student role player ran down a dark hallway asking, "is my friend okay" and was directed to safety while two medics lifted another role player nearby into a body bag.

According to BHPD Spokesperson, Lieutenant Giovanni Trejo, private security through Nastec International, Inc. is used in a scenario like this to assist by patrolling each entry point at the school. Doing so allows emergency personnel and police officers to respond to the situation without having to also secure the perimeter.

"It's so important to let everybody see the inside of a school and see what it would look like in an event like one of these situations, God forbid," Stainbrook said. "These exercises take a lot of planning and

coordination, and you have to be patient with these things. It takes a while to get it set up to run through a scenario that only lasts a couple minutes. Communicate, coordinate, and help each other out, because when it really goes down, that's exactly what we're going to have to do, and that's why we're all practicing this. So, when and if it happens, it's not the first time we've ever done it." ●

INDI EV, from page 4

with two massive screens ready to be used as a video game console, TV screen, or work on a computer.

Like any car dealership, visitors can take an INDI EV car for a test drive or reserve one for purchase (they start at about \$45,000). For those who aren't brave enough to get behind the wheel, the storefront also offers a virtual reality driving simulation.

The showroom is also available for businesses to host community events. It's all part of the company's mission to support innovation and collaboration.

"We want this space to be more than just a storefront," said Bobby Buschell, an associate manager of marketing for INDI EV. "We want this to be a community space and somewhere that people can gather and meet new people."

"I can tell you that this is absolutely going to be the best home for INDI EV," Bosse said to the crowd. "What we love about having you here is you're visionary. You think towards the future. That's what Beverly Hills is."

After the ceremony, Bosse and the Council

took a tour of the showroom and studio. Bosse expressed admiration for the company's commitment to uplifting technology and new creators.

"It's been so exciting that INDI EV chose Beverly Hills for their flagship," said Bosse. "What makes it so unique and different is that they've created an experiential space where people can come and get involved and take the spirit of the future."

In addition to the traditional showroom, INDI EV offers a "Creator Studio" for content creators involved with its brand ambassador program. The space, located on the second floor, hosts a state-of-the-art editing bay, Instagram-friendly lighting, and a wall of backdrops and ring lights perfect for filming the next big Tik Tok.

INDI EV has partnered with Twitch live-streamers, Instagram influencers, Tik Tok personalities, and YouTube content creators to be "Indie Innovators" who promote the vehicles and their technology. Anyone involved with the program can use the creative space for their projects.

"Brands like this are really important, and to creators like me," said Ella Rosa, a musician who attended the event. "I want to make music and content for INDI EV." The space is what INDI EV hopes will be an invaluable resource for artists and car lovers alike.

"The idea was to give people the information that they'd get at a traditional showroom, but also give them a hands-on experience and exposure to the technology behind the car that makes it so unique," Buschell said. ●



Next stop: more subway.



PURPLE (D LINE) EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT
Section 2 – Beverly Hills Update

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction activities to build the Wilshire/Rodeo Station continue primarily underground at Wilshire Bl and Rodeo Bl. Material deliveries will continue during day and evening hours.

TRAFFIC ALERT

From 8:15pm–7am Wilshire Bl may be reduced to one lane in each direction between El Camino Dr and Crescent Dr.

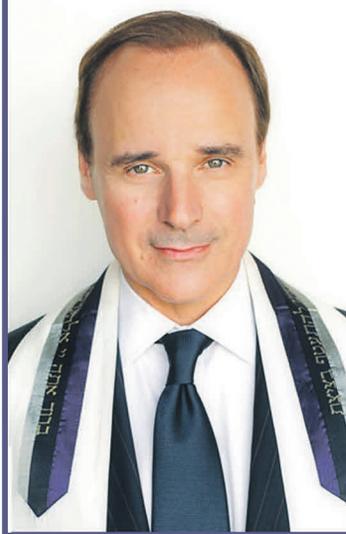
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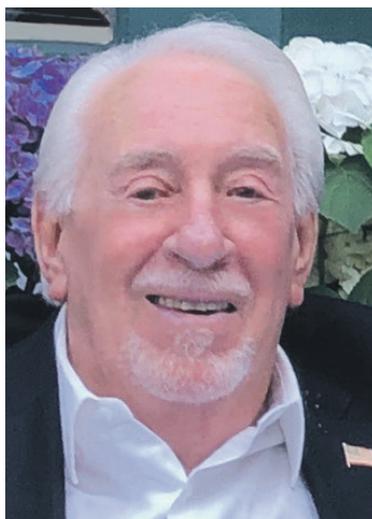
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Birthdays



CATHY BAKER
August 20



SHELDON SLATEN
August 20



SY SCHAFFEL
August 22



RUPERT GRINT
August 24



ELVIS COSTELLO
August 25



NORMAN SHORR
August 25



MELISSA MCCARTHY
August 26

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EDITORIAL@BHCOURIER.COM



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Bad habits ultimately deplete; good habits ultimately fortify. You might feel tired after you exercise, but in the long term it makes you stronger. A new pursuit will follow a similar rhythm with short-term pain and long-term gain.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It may feel important to declare your boundaries. Relationships are defined by actions, not words. When it's not going strictly by your rules, just remember that you can go by your own rules, and that's what matters.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A calm mind makes you better at just about everything. Getting to that calm mind is an essential discipline to learn and eventually master. You may even create a method of calming that's unique to you, yet helpful to many.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). For the most part, you're a lover, not a fighter. Still, some things are worth fighting for. Today it's enough just to notice what they are and experience

the surge of feeling that comes with appreciating them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll employ your talent for sensing the motives of others. You'll counteract any force threatening your goals. It will be strategic to keep your plans secret. Relatedly, an effective use of silence will make a statement that words cannot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your network keeps giving. You'll learn what you need to get to the next place then return with a long list of new questions to ask. The more you know, the more comfortable you get with the reality that you'll never know it all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When something happens easily, it feels fated. In today's case something falls together and gets tied up in the bow of destiny. Note the difference between "easy" and "automatic," which is more an indicator of habit than fate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A flurry of new people and challenges comes with the chaos of a new venture. It will be invigorating to dance with the disorder instead of attempting to control it. Eventually things will order themselves.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The dance of relationships is one of stepping back to get closer. Honor your need for space and become sensitized to the spatial needs of others. The oxygen in these spaces is what makes togetherness spark.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today's project may not seem like a fertile ground for self-expression, but with your imagination it won't be too hard to find an approach that elevates. Somewhere inside every job is an opportunity to be fully yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Ask for what you need. In doing so you'll create the change that sets off a hundred other improvements. You may not have the support you want now, but it will come eventually. Meanwhile, be your own champion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Remember the time when the unexpected change shook up your perspective and then something truly positive came out of it? That's great because it will happen again. When it goes a bit sideways, hang in there.



This week, meet Jamison, an eligible puppy for adoption.

Jamison is a 15-pound, 8-year-old male Shih Tzu. He's blind but perfect.

To meet Jamison, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org



Photo by Omar Reyes Benítez

Windows at the Bank of the West on Canon sustained damage from the gunshots on Aug. 16.

Shots Fired, from page 5

The Courier reviewed a video posted on Instagram that was shot inside Nusr-Et. It showed an individual on the ground applying pressure to a wound. In the now-deleted video, the patron recording explains that once the shots were fired, he and other diners ran towards the kitchen of the restaurant. Once police arrived, patrons began to leave as paramedics enter the scene.

A man was arrested at the scene, but he is not a suspect in this crime.

The shooter fled the scene in a waiting vehicle and authorities have yet to announce a suspect. "This is a very fluid investigation. We have reviewed a lot of evidence and at this time, the preliminary investigation

indicates that this was not a random act," Beverly Hills Police Department spokesperson Lt. Giovanni Trejo told the Courier.

Trejo also made reference to the burglary at Beverly Hills Neiman Marcus last weekend.

"Coming back-to-back, it makes people uneasy about where they live and where they can comfortably visit. But generally speaking, the City of Beverly Hills is safe. If you review the crime rates of surrounding areas, we are a very safe city," said Trejo.

Nusr-Et returned to normal business operations the day after the shooting.

The Beverly Hills Police Department is asking anyone with information about the shooting to call the BHPD at 310-285-2125. ●

Neiman Marcus, from page 5

damaged windows replaced with boarding.

What set this break-in apart was the organization, and apparent targeting of the fashion strip in the heart of Beverly Hills, at play as a second vehicle approached the scene to pick up the suspects before it drove off.

BHPD connected the registration of the black sedan left behind at the scene to an address in Inglewood.

Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark

Stainbrook delivered a public statement regarding the incident.

"Due to our robust technology and the evidence left at the scene, I am confident we will make arrests in this case," Stainbrook said.

"We understand the concerns of the community, and our staff continues to arrest people who commit crimes in Beverly Hills," he added. "This case will be no different. Crime of any kind will not be tolerated in Beverly Hills." ●

DJ Keybo, from page 8

taste of the crowd and challenge their comfort zone with other music they may like. "[Only playing hits] doesn't do much for the art of DJing," said Keybo. "Introducing newer music, newer vibes and newer ways, I'm looking forward to doing that here."

Keybo says that music should never stop evolving and neither should people's minds. When he listens to music, he finds comfort in familiar sounds especially when they're in a new setting. "It's so smooth. They take stuff that they've grown up on, been in love with and modernize it with what we have access to now," said Keybo.

Music is heading in a direction that combines different elements from not just different generations or genres, but different

places of the world as well, according to Keybo.

He believes that America has already served as somewhat of a musical satellite, picking up tunes from around the globe, with Latin music for example. "Everybody's going to be on the Afrobeat vibe, the UK drill vibe is popping off, we're getting very international here in the states," said Keybo. "There's nothing wrong with appreciating different perspectives from different places."

But regardless of what record he's spinning, Keybo says it's always a pleasure to return to Beverly Hills. "We've done a bunch of different events with the City and it's always cool. We've had a bunch of great parties with Lilli and her supporters," he said. "We always throw down!" ●

Back to School at BHUSD



Aug. 15 marked back to school week in the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD). Students, faculty, BHUSD Board Members and Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy as well as Mayor Lili Bosse attended events

beginning on Aug. 12, including Hawthorne Operation Welcome Back, the Horace Mann Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast and Staff Opening Day at the Saban Theatre.



SUDOKU
08/19/22 ISSUE

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SUDOKU ANSWERS
08/12/22 ISSUE

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PUZZLE ANSWERS
08/12/22 ISSUE

S	R	I	R	A	C	H	A	W	I	M	P	E	D	D	E	F	E	R	
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BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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PLEASE CONTACT 310-278-1322
ADVERTISE@BHCOURIER.COM

THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
08/19/22 ISSUE

LETTERPLAY

BY TINA LABADIE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Tina Labadie lives in London, Ontario. This is her first New York Times crossword. It has one of my favorite kinds of themes — one offering many different “aha” moments. The example at 118-Across, at the bottom of the puzzle, is a little different from the others, like the kicker of a joke. As a construction fillip, every letter in the alphabet is used at least once in the completed grid. — W. S.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Homes that may have butlers</p> <p>7 Singer Dylan of the Wallflowers</p> <p>12 Supporting beams</p> <p>18 Bear or boar</p> <p>19 Bees, e.g.</p> <p>21 Gleaming</p> <p>22 The “C” of AMC Theatres</p> <p>23 The whole package, colloquially</p> <p>24 Sevastopol is its largest city</p> <p>25 Not true?</p> <p>27 Visitor to a website, in analytics lingo</p> <p>29 “Time _____”</p> <p>30 Concedes</p> <p>33 Santa _____, Calif.</p> <p>34 m, to Einstein</p> <p>35 B.C. neighbor: Abbr.</p> <p>38 Think creatively</p> <p>40 XL or 11C</p> <p>42 Beer named for a founding father</p> <p>45 W-2, for one</p> <p>47 W.W. I helmet, informally</p> <p>51 2004 Will Smith sci-fi film</p> <p>52 D.S.T. starting time ... or a hint to 42-Across</p> | <p>54 Weightlessness ... or a hint to 118-Across</p> <p>56 _____ Compton, first woman to cover the White House for a TV network</p> <p>57 Rating unit</p> <p>60 Libya’s Gulf of _____</p> <p>61 Reporter’s credit</p> <p>62 TV tavern</p> <p>64 Mimic</p> <p>66 “Royal” bird</p> <p>67 In</p> <p>68 Top credit rating ... or a hint to 25-Across</p> <p>71 23rd in a series ... or a hint to 27-Across</p> <p>73 Trust in</p> <p>76 Fails to be</p> <p>78 Keen</p> <p>79 Google _____</p> <p>83 Holds in high regard</p> <p>84 Old lab burners</p> <p>86 Water bird with a haunting call</p> <p>88 Bit of HI gear?</p> <p>89 Cops ... or a hint to 115-Across</p> <p>90 Club for farm kids ... or a hint to 97-Across</p> <p>91 Pouch on a string</p> <p>93 Game with L- and T-shaped pieces</p> <p>96 Locale for a West Coast wine tour</p> <p>97 Secretive</p> <p>99 R.&R. settings</p> <p>101 Crystal-clear</p> <p>103 “O, _____ fortune’s fool!”: Romeo</p> | <p>104 Singer King with the 2014 hit “Ex’s & Oh’s”</p> <p>108 Body feature of a mammoth</p> <p>110 Holy _____</p> <p>112 It might be taken to the airport</p> <p>115 Spelling aid?</p> <p>118 Baseball announcer’s call on a home run</p> <p>121 Nigerian city of 3.5+ million</p> <p>122 Set on the ground</p> <p>125 “Jeopardy!” fodder</p> <p>126 This evenin’</p> <p>128 “I kid you not!”</p> <p>129 Rate</p> <p>130 Like the Xbox One X vis-à-vis the Xbox One</p> <p>131 Makes some Z’s</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 Colorful parrot</p> <p>2 Santa _____</p> <p>3 Jazz singer born Eunice Kathleen Waymon</p> <p>4 Warning sign</p> <p>5 Commercial follower of “-o-”</p> <p>6 A-game or b-ball, e.g.</p> <p>7 The “you” of the song lyric “I’m begging of you, please don’t take my man”</p> <p>8 Part of the knee, for short</p> <p>9 D.I.Y. buy</p> <p>10 “Magnum, P.I.” setting</p> <p>11 Sauvignon _____</p> <p>12 Where one might turn on the jets</p> <p>13 D&D monster</p> <p>14 Pelvis bone</p> <p>15 Gregor _____, Kafka protagonist</p> <p>16 Some genealogical work</p> <p>17 Pioneering mail-order company</p> <p>19 Introductory courses</p> <p>20 Mixes together</p> <p>26 Not looking good</p> <p>28 Ctrl + Q</p> <p>31 First couple of the early 1910s</p> <p>32 “Shut your trap!”</p> <p>36 Apply with a Q-tip, say</p> <p>37 Kerfuffles</p> <p>39 Wore down</p> <p>41 RNA polymerase, e.g.</p> <p>42 Thailand, once</p> <p>43 River through Tuscany</p> <p>44 Reaches</p> <p>46 Bone filler</p> <p>48 No. 2 on a table</p> <p>49 Bone-dry</p> <p>50 A great deal</p> <p>53 How-to go-to</p> <p>55 Obtain</p> <p>58 YouTube or Gmail</p> <p>59 “Phew!” feeling</p> <p>61 They’re filled with X’s</p> |
|---|---|--|

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>63 Engraving instrument</p> <p>65 Lean against</p> <p>69 Whirlybird whirlers</p> <p>70 Like some plants and physicals</p> <p>72 Personal story, informally</p> <p>73 One calling a “T”</p> <p>74 Turnoff</p> <p>75 Wash up</p> <p>77 Certain fossil preserve</p> <p>80 The art of music?</p> | <p>81 Vegetables that make a fitting addition to alphabet soup?</p> <p>82 [Oh, well]</p> <p>85 “Tsk, tsk!”</p> <p>87 Classic soda brand</p> <p>92 “Oh, I see!”</p> <p>94 Small-screen entertainers?</p> <p>95 Ibn _____ (former Mideast king)</p> <p>97 Responsibility of a personnel director</p> | <p>98 Japanese noodle</p> <p>100 Young salmon</p> <p>102 Like hawks</p> <p>104 Hit 1979 musical in which a character’s mistress is one of the main roles</p> <p>105 University of New Mexico team</p> <p>106 Bank deals</p> <p>107 _____ Vedder, lead singer of Pearl Jam</p> <p>109 Garden-variety</p> <p>111 Some I.R.A.s</p> <p>113 Licoricelike flavor</p> <p>114 Rap producers make them</p> <p>116 The “O’s” of Cheerios</p> <p>117 Old _____, Conn.</p> <p>119 Spinach is rich in it</p> <p>120 El _____</p> <p>123 Drop o’ the mornin’</p> <p>124 Cheer to a matador</p> |
|---|--|--|

ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

Police Blotter

The following incidents of assault, burglary, DUI arrest, motor vehicle theft, robbery, theft, and vandalism have been reported. Streets are usually indicated by block numbers.



ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

7/8/2022, 8:24 a.m. at 300 Block of N. SWALL DRIVE

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

7/25/2022, 8:11 p.m. at 9400 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

7/24/2022, 6:35 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

7/14/2022, 3 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/12/2022, 12 p.m. at 400 Block of N. OAKHURST DRIVE

7/11/2022, 10:35 p.m. at 1100 Block of COLDWATER CANYON DRIVE

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

7/25/2022, 2:11 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/21/2022, 7:30 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CAMDEN DRIVE

7/20/2022, 1:45 p.m. at 9800 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/18/2022, 10 a.m. at 100 Block of N. HAMILTON DRIVE

7/16/2022, 2:15 p.m. at N. CRESCENT DRIVE / BRIGHTON WAY

7/16/2022, 2:12 p.m. at 9300 Block of DAYTON WAY

7/16/2022, 9 a.m. at N. BEVERLY DRIVE / CARMELITA AVE.

7/15/2022, 2:03 p.m. at 400 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (ACCESSED GARAGE ONLY)

7/22/2022, 11:30 a.m. at 200 Block of S. CLARK DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (HOME OCCUPIED)

7/3/2022, 6:30 a.m. at 500 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

7/22/2022, 11:37 p.m. at 700 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

7/16/2022, 9:30 a.m. at 1000 Block of TOWER ROAD

DUI ARREST

7/9/2022, 3 a.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / S. ROBERTSON BOULEVARD

7/3/2022, 6:10 a.m. at N. BEVERLY DRIVE / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

7/25/2022, 5 p.m. at 400 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

7/21/2022, 6 a.m. at 200 Block of S. WILLAMAN DRIVE

7/19/2022, 8 a.m. at 100 Block of N. STANLEY DRIVE

7/14/2022, 12:04 p.m. at FOOTHILL ROAD / ELEVADO AVE.

7/12/2022, 6 a.m. at GREGORY WAY / S. WILLAMAN DRIVE

7/11/2022, 1 p.m. at 900 Block of WHITTIER DRIVE

ROBBERY

7/13/2022, 6:44 p.m. at 200 Block of S. ALMONT DRIVE

7/7/2022, 10:10 p.m. at 300 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

7/3/2022, 5:47 p.m. at 300 Block of S. LINDEN DRIVE

SHOPLIFT ROBBERY

7/21/2022, 4:05 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

7/18/2022, 4:05 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND

7/25/2022, 3:40 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/24/2022, 5:30 p.m. at 300 Block of MCCARTY DRIVE

7/22/2022, 2:46 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/23/2022, 5 p.m. at 300 Block of S REXFORD DRIVE

7/18/2022, 6:33 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/18/2022, 5:46 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/17/2022, 3:19 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/17/2022, 2:03 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/17/2022, 12:45 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/16/2022, 3:45 p.m. at 9400 Block of BRIGHTON WAY

7/15/2022, 9 p.m. at 200 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

7/13/2022, 1:15 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

7/16/2022, 5:34 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/9/2022, 4:28 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT - PETTY

7/25/2022, 3:47 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/24/2022, 8:20 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

7/24/2022, 1:30 p.m. at 8700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/21/2022, 5:10 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/21/2022, 5:56 p.m. at 9800 Block of S. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

7/20/2022, 12:58 p.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/19/2022, 9:24 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

7/17/2022, 3:58 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/13/2022, 11:35 p.m. at 300 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

7/13/2022, 10:16 a.m. at 500 Block of N. ELM DRIVE

7/12/2022, 2:50 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/9/2022, 1:14 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

7/10/2022, 12 p.m. at 1200 Block of COLDWATER CANYON DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

7/6/2022, 7:40 a.m. at 200 Block of S. GALE DRIVE

7/3/2022, 8:30 a.m. at 100 Block of S. ROXBURY DRIVE

7/2/2022, 11:19 a.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

VANDALISM

7/24/2022, 9:35 a.m. at 9900 Block of DURANT DRIVE

7/23/2022, 6:34 p.m. at 300 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

7/21/2022, 2:11 p.m. at WILSHIRE BLVD. / N. REXFORD DRIVE

7/16/2022, 7:15 p.m. at WILSHIRE BLVD. / N. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

7/12/2022, 1:03 p.m. at 9400 Block of CHARLEVILLE BLVD.

7/12/2022, 4:54 a.m. at 9400 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

7/10/2022, 9:29 a.m. at 9000 Block of BURTON WAY

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS for the ROBERTSON BOULEVARD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS within the City of BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

BIDS - Proposals for the **ROBERTSON BOULEVARD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS** project within the City of Beverly Hills, California, shall be received up to the hour of 2:00 p.m., on **Monday August 29, 2022** via Planetbids. Bid results will be posted on PlanetBids soon after downloading the bids. Award of the contract will be made during a subsequent meeting of the City Council.

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING – A MANDATORY virtual pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **Monday August 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.** Please check Planetbids for meeting link. Following the Pre-Bid Meeting, site tours will be scheduled on August 23 and 24, 2022, starting at 9:00 am at the intersection of Burton Way and Robertson Boulevard.

SCOPE OF THE WORK - In general terms, the contract work for this project shall consist of concrete demolition, concrete installation, tree removal, stormwater infiltration device installation, irrigation installation and electrical conduit and line installation.

CITY CONTACT – Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the project manager, **Manu Dhaliwal, P.E., at mdhaliwal@beverlyhills.org or by calling 310-285-2513.**

PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER – The Contractor is required to register with State of California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and meet requirements to bid on public works contracts.

PREVAILING WAGES - The Contractor will be required to pay to all workers employed on the project sums not less than the sums set forth in the documents entitled "General Prevailing Wage Determination made by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to California Labor Code, Part 7, Chapter 1, Article 2, Sections 1770, 1773, 1773.1."

CONTRACTORS LICENSE - In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess the following license(s): **"A"**

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL THE BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID, BUT IF THE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED, THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code) Escrow No. 120-30991-CM

(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: DR. SVETLANA FISHER, AN OPTOMETRIC CORP, INC., 7976 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: SAME AS ABOVE

PUBLIC NOTICES

(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: SPECS APPEAL OPTOMETRY, 14810 HARTLAND STREET, VAN NUYS, CA 91405

(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: CERTAIN FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, INVENTORY AND OTHER ASSETS of that certain business located at: 7976 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: SPECS APPEAL OPTOMETRY AND OPTOMETRIC SPECS APPEAL

(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is AUGUST 18, 2022 at the office of: GLEN OAKS ESCROW, 24018 LYONS AVE. SANTA CLARITA, CA 91321, Escrow No. 120-30991-CM, Escrow Officer: CYNTHIA MOLLER

(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above.

(9) The last day for filing claims is: AUGUST 17, 2022.

(10) This bulk sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.

DATED: JULY 26, 2022
BUYER(S): SPECS APPEAL OPTOMETRY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CASE NO: 22SMCP00370 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of:
Natalie Kunin
To all interested person(s):
Petitioner:
Natalie Kunin
current residence address:
309 S. Bedford Dr.,
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles,
1725 Main St., Room #102
Santa Monica, CA 90401,
Santa Monica Courthouse,
on August 02, 2022

for a Decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
Natalie Kunin
Proposed Name:
Nathalie Kunin

The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:
Date: October 21, 2022
Time: 8:30am
Dept: K
The address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles,
1725 Main St., Room #102
Santa Monica, CA 90401,
Santa Monica Courthouse.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Signed:
Natalie Kunin
Judge of the Superior Court
Laurence H. Cho,
Sherri R. Carter,
Executive Officer/Clerk,
By: Leslie Kulkin,
Deputy Clerk

Dated: August 02, 2022
Published: August 05, 12, 19, 26, 2022
Beverly Hills Courier

Planning Commission, from page 1



Photo by welcomia/depositphotos.com

Cartier delay greenlighted

The Lexington Road project was preceded by Commissioners approving a second one-year extension for construction to start on a retail building for high-end jeweler Cartier.

In August 2018, the Commission approved a three-story edifice at 370 North Rodeo Drive with Richemont North America the developer.

Under city law, that approval lapses after three years unless building permits are obtained. But the developer can ask for up to two one-year extensions.

"Cartier remains committed to the project," said Debbie Quick, a lawyer at Perkins Coie representing the developers. "As we all learned over the last couple of years sometimes things take a little longer than we expected."

The Commission had no reservations about another extension, citing complications Richemont had in addressing an earthquake fault line. In January 2018, the California Geological Survey published a map indicating a fault line runs below Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive shopping district.

"Normally when we grant permits, we want the applicant to move expeditiously," said Commissioner Peter Ostroff. "But this was an unusual situation."

According to Ostroff, Richemont was in a "Catch-22" about testing to ensure the site is safe to build on without first having to demolish the existing building.

Ostroff spoke with the project's lawyer, Quick, before the meeting, "And found my conversation to be very persuasive," he said.

Added Theresa Kaplan, serving as Commissioner for her second meeting, "I have no concerns at all about this project."

"Very troubled"

But Commissioners - and even a former member Craig Corman, who the Commission invited to share his opinions - voiced concerns about a mansion whose official developer is Lexington Prime Estate LLC.

"I am troubled," said Jeff Wolfe, also at his second meeting.

"I am very troubled," said commission vice-chair Gary Ross.

"This is pretty serious," Demeter said.

Commissioners offered three main worries. Was the project in the construction "pipeline" before a 2018 city law limiting basement sizes went into effect? Why didn't construction start after the project was first approved in 2016? And what happened to those trees?

The home's 8,104-square-foot basement, and the anticipated over 3,000-cubic-yards of land excavated to build the basement, runs afoul of the 2018 "basement ordinance."

However, projects approved before 2018 have generally been grandfathered out of such requirements. Ultimately, commissioners decided by a 3-2 margin that 1510 Lexington Road was also in the "pipeline." But the vote's bearing on ultimate project approval is unclear.

Why is 1510 Lexington Road finally being revisited in August 2022? Project lawyer Ronald Richards blamed the pandemic. He was promptly rebutted by commission members who pointed out the pandemic was not an issue until 2020.

Richards next asserted the project was in legal limbo due to the basement ordinance. But Corman, the former commissioner, believed otherwise.

"That wasn't my experience," Corman said. "Developers were in a rush to build," if they had a project in the pipeline before the basement ordinance.

If a developer builds with legally granted entitlements, Corman said, they earn a vested right to keep building.

The project seeks to raze five heritage trees. The trees, though, are already no more - with no record of their disappearance.

Demeter, Wolfe and Ostroff asked Russell Linch, a project representative and general contractor, about the trees. But Linch, who said he joined the developed in "late 2016," could not provide specifics beyond suggesting commissioners reach out to project arborist Lisa Smith.

Demeter expressed reluctance to grant, "Retroactive permission to cut the trees down illegally."

Absent from the three-hour hearing was the developer themselves.

It is to be determined if the actual building owner, officially registered as Lexington Prime Estate LLC, will appear on Oct. 13. ●

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